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NEWS

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POC: Cmdr. Anthony Cooper

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Oak Harbor High cadet earns cash award for academic achievement

PENSACOLA, Fla.-- Audra Mendelsohn, an Oak Harbor High School student and Navy Junior ROTC cadet, receives \$1,000 award from the Chief of Naval Education and Training (CNET) for selection as the area nine Navy Junior ROTC Joseph C. Gilliam Academic Achievement Awardee.

Mendelsohn is among eight students from across the United States recently awarded the Navy Junior ROTC Joseph C. Gilliam Academic Achievement Award. The annual Gilliam award recognizes one cadet in each of the eight geographical areas for outstanding academic achievement. Graduating high school seniors who are studying under a college preparatory curriculum, are National Honor Society members, and have completed two years of Navy Junior ROTC earning an Academic Award Ribbon before graduation, are eligible for this award.

In determining the winner in each area, the regional manager reviews the nominees' unit position, overall high school grade point average (on a 4.0 scale), naval science grade point average, high school class standing, and other noteworthy accomplishments. Additionally, each student submits a 750-word essay. This year's essay was "The Effective Chain of Command: Loyalty or Discipline to Duty."

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Oak Harbor High cadet earns cash 2-2-2

The late Joseph C. Gilliam devoted his life to pursuing and fostering academic achievement. After retiring from the Navy in 1960, he earned his master's degree from Harvard University, and pursued a career as a high school educator. He later joined the U.S. civil service as a Navy education specialist, where he headed the Navy Junior ROTC academic program for CNET. In keeping with the high standards of excellence set by Gilliam, the Joseph C. Gilliam Academic Achievement Award was established to acknowledge those who best personify his virtues.

This year's award winners are: Brent Mazurek, North Rockland High School, Thiells, N.Y.; Andrew Bosse, Maury High School, Norfolk, Va.; Timothy Moore, North Cobb High School, Kennesaw, Ga.; William Stange, Lake Howell High School, Winter Park, Fla.; Nakimuli Davis, Canton High School, Canton, Miss.; Audra Mendelsohn, Oak Harbor High School, Oak Harbor, Wash.; James Garza III, Roy Miller High School, Corpus Christi, Texas; Caitlin Fackrell, Kalaheo High School, Kailua, Hawaii. Each winner receives an award citation signed by Vice Adm. John W. Craine Jr., chief of Naval Education and Training, as well as a \$1,000 cash award.

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